

Spring 1-15-2000

ENG 3807-002: Victorian Literature

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3807-002

English 3807: Victorian Literature

spring 2000

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Texts:

Collins and Rundle, *The Broadview Anthology of Victorian Poetry and . . . (VP)*

Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend (Our)*

Mundhenk and Fletcher, *Victorian Prose: An Anthology (VPr)*

Course Description and Objectives:

I have designed this course to introduce you to the major social, historical, and literary developments in Britain during the reign of Queen Victoria, 1837 to 1901. Class reading assignments include selections from the fiction, poetry, and nonfictional prose of this period, and I expect each class member to prepare these readings carefully and to come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions. Our goal for each work assigned is to understand why and how it is a product of the age in which it was produced; I consider class lectures and discussions indispensable for developing the necessary background knowledge to do this kind of reading/interpretive work successfully. The Victorians – individually and as a group – wrote a great deal, and we will read only a small portion of what they produced. But I have chosen reading assignments carefully to represent the best voices responding to the most important issues of the day. Many works are difficult, but do not be discouraged if at first you don't understand all the details of a text. The idea is to come to class willing to improve your understanding of the assigned material. To this end I will give you weekly in-class writing assignments to stimulate your thinking before we begin discussing reading assignments.

Requirements and grading:

careful preparation of assigned reading

regular participation in class discussions

weekly in-class writing assignments – 20%

one brief paper, requiring use of outside sources, on an assigned topic – 30%

or

an annotated bibliography on an assigned literary work of the period – 30%

a mid-term exam – 25%

a final exam – 25%

Course Policies:

Attendance at all class meetings is expected but not required. (After the first two or three weeks, I will not take attendance.) Remember, however, that in-class writing cannot be made up without a valid excuse, and that exams are based, in part, on class discussions and lectures.

If you cannot make a deadline, please let me know in advance. I do not accept late work without a valid excuse. Please see me if you are having difficulty keeping up with the work. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

Papers must be typed (double-spaced) and documented MLA style.

I would like to see each of you in conference some time during the semester, though I am not requiring it. I like talking to you about how your work is going in this course and in the others you are taking. The more I get to know a class, the more rewarding I find my own work in preparation for class lectures and discussions. Feel free to stop by at any time or you may make an appointment.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

I enforce the English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism . . . has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of F for the course."

Tentative Schedule:

1/11: introductions

1/13: **VPr:** Mayhew, "Labour and the Poor"; Kay-Shuttleworth, "The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes"; Prince Albert, speech on the Great Exhibition; Queen Victoria, journal entry on the Great Exhibition

1/18: **VPr:** Carlyle, "Past and Present"

1/20: **VPr:** "Past and Present"; Smiles, "Self-Help" and "Leaders of Industry"

1/25: Dickens, **Our Mutual Friend**, I - X

1/27: **Our**, XI - XX

2/1: **Our**, XXI - XXX; **VPr:** Tonna, "The Wrongs of Women"

2/3: **Our**, XXXI - XL

2/8: **Our**, XLI - L; **VPr**: Ellis, "The Women of England"

2/10: **Our**, LI - LX

2/15: **Our**, LXI - end; **VPr**: Nightingale, "Cassandra"

2/17: **VP**: Mill, "What is Poetry"; Landon, "On the Ancient and Modern"

2/22: **VP**: Landon, "Erinna," "The Nameless Grave," "The Factory," "Rydal Water and Grasmere Lake"

2/24: **VP**: E.B.Browning, "The Romaunt of the Page," "Lady Geraldine's Courtship"

2/29: **VP**: E.B.Browning, "The Dead Pan," "The Cry of the Children," "A Man's Requirements," "A Curse for a Nation"

3/2: **Mid-term exam**

3/7: **VP**: Tennyson, "Mariana," "The Poet," "The Poet's Mind," "The Kraken," "The Lady of Shalott"; Hallam, "On Some of the Characteristics of Modern Poetry"

3/9: **VP**: Tennyson, "Ulysses," "The Lotus-Eaters," "Locksley Hall"

3/14; 3/16: **Spring recess**

3/21: **VP**: Tennyson, "In Memoriam," 1-31

3/23: **VP**: Tennyson, "In Memoriam," 32-83; **VPr**: Darwin, "On the Origin of Species"; Huxley, "Agnosticism and Christianity"

3/28: **VP**: Tennyson, "In Memoriam," 84-131

3/30: **VP**: R.Browning, "My Last Duchess," "Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister," "Prophyria's Lover," "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at"

4/4: **VP**: R.Browning, "Andrea del Sarto," "Two in the Campagna," "Rabbi Ben Ezra," "Caliban Upon Setebos"

4/6: **VP**: Arnold, "Dover Beach," "The Buried Life," "The Scholar-Gypsy"; **VPr**: "Literature and Science"

4/11: **VPr**: Arnold, "Culture and Anarchy"; **paper or bibliography due**

4/13: **VP:** C.Rossetti, "Goblin Market," "After Death," "No, Thank you, John"

4/18: **VP:** D.G.Rossetti, "The Blessed Damozel," "Jenny," "The Woodspurge"

4/20: **VP:** Swinburne, "Hymn to Proserpine," "The Leper," "The Garden of Proserpine,"
"A Forsaken Garden," "The Lake of Gaube"

4/25: **VP:** Hardy, "Hap," "Neutral Tones," "A Broken Appointment," "The Darkling
Thrush"

4/27: **VP:** Hardy, "In Tenebris," "Snow in the Suburbs," "In a Wood"

5/1 - 5/5: **Final Exam:** Date and time to be announced